

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Examiner's Action mailed July 10, 2008 in which the subject matter of claims 17, 23 and 24 was indicated as being allowable over the prior art of record, if rewritten in independent form. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the comments set forth below.

By this Amendment, independent claim 7 is amended to include the features of indicated allowable claim 17 and the features of intervening claims 8 and 10-12; indicated allowable claims 23 and 24 are both rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of intervening claims 8, 10-12 and 20-22; and claims 8, 10-12, 17 and 20-22 are canceled. In addition, dependent claims 9 and 13-18 are amended to depend from an allowable independent claim. Accordingly, claims 7, 9, 13-16, 18-19 and 23-38 are pending in the present application all of which containing the limitations of a claim indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

In particular, since currently amended independent claim 7 includes all the limitations of allowable claim 17 and intermediate claims 8 and 10-12, it is believed that claim 7 and its dependent claims 9, 13-15, 18-19, and 25-38 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Moreover, since independent claim 23 includes all the limitations of indicated allowable claim 23 and intervening claims 8, 10-12 and 20-22, it is believed that claim 23 and its dependent claim 16 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Likewise, indicated claim 24 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of intervening claims 8, 10-12 and 20-22. Consequently, independent claim 24 is deemed allowable over the prior art of record.

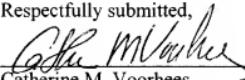
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be withdrawn and that a Notice of Allowance be issued indicating that claims 7, 9, 13-16, 18-19 and 23-38 are allowed over the prior art of record.

It is believed that no fee is due, however, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261, under Order No. 38412-198025.

Should the Examiner believe that a conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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